

What is claimed is:

1. An insulation cutoff apparatus, comprising:
  - a blade;
  - an actuator, said actuator being operatively connected to said blade for selectively moving said blade in a rectilinear direction;
  - a cutting block disposed adjacent said blade, said cutting block being selectively movable so as to position differing areas of said cutting block in opposition to said blade;
  - a depth control mechanism for selectively controlling a degree of movement of said blade toward said cutting block; and
  - wherein operation of said actuator selectively causes said blade to move in said rectilinear direction thereby impacting said cutting block to an extent in accordance with said depth control mechanism.
2. The insulation cutoff apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:
  - said cutting block is made from urethane.
3. The insulation cutoff apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:
  - said actuator comprises a pair of pneumatically operated cylinders operatively disposed on opposing distal ends of said blade.
4. The insulation cutoff apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:
  - said cutting block is selectively shiftable in a direction substantially perpendicular to said rectilinear direction, thus altering an impact line of said blade upon said cutting block.
5. The insulation cutoff apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:
  - said cutting block includes two impact surfaces, said cutting block being selectively rotatable about its longitudinal axis, thus selectively positioning one of said two impact surfaces in opposition to said blade.

6. The insulation cutoff apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:  
a releasable mounting system for releasably securing said cutting block in  
opposition to said blade.
7. The insulation cutoff apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:  
said blade is a ceramic blade.
8. The insulation cutoff apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:  
said depth control mechanism includes a threaded adjustment assembly  
having a planar stop positioned thereon;  
said blade is fixed to a blade holder having a planar control surface  
defined on a distal end thereof; and  
wherein said planar stop and said planar control surface operate to  
control said degree of movement of said blade towards said cutting block.
9. The insulation cutoff apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising:  
a quick exhaust valve operatively connected to each of said pneumatically  
operated cylinders, said quick exhaust valves automatically actuating during  
said rectilinear movement of said blade member towards said cutting block.
10. A cutoff apparatus, comprising:  
a blade;  
an actuator, said actuator being operatively connected to said blade for  
selectively moving said blade in a rectilinear direction;  
a cutting block disposed adjacent said blade, said cutting block being  
positioned off-center with respect to a plane defined by said blade's rectilinear  
movement;  
a depth control mechanism for selectively controlling a degree of  
movement of said blade toward said cutting block; and  
wherein operation of said actuator selectively causes said blade to move  
in said rectilinear direction thereby impacting said cutting block to an extent in  
accordance with said depth control mechanism.

11. The cutoff apparatus according to claim 10, wherein:  
said cutting block is selectively movable so as to position differing areas of said cutting block in opposition to said blade.
12. The insulation cutoff apparatus according to claim 10, wherein:  
said cutting block is made from urethane.
13. The insulation cutoff apparatus according to claim 10, wherein:  
said actuator comprises a pair of pneumatically operated cylinders operatively disposed on opposing distal ends of said blade.
14. The insulation cutoff apparatus according to claim 10, wherein:  
said cutting block is selectively shiftable in a direction substantially perpendicular to said rectilinear direction, thus altering an impact line of said blade upon said cutting block.
15. The insulation cutoff apparatus according to claim 10, wherein:  
said cutting block includes two impact surfaces, said cutting block being selectively rotatable about its longitudinal axis, thus selectively positioning one of said two impact surfaces in opposition to said blade.
16. The insulation cutoff apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising:  
a releasable mounting system for releasably securing said cutting block in opposition to said blade.
17. The insulation cutoff apparatus according to claim 10, wherein:  
said blade is a ceramic blade.

18. The insulation cutoff apparatus according to claim 10, wherein:  
said depth control mechanism includes a threaded adjustment assembly having a planar stop positioned thereon;  
said blade is fixed to a blade holder having a planar control surface defined on a distal end thereof; and  
wherein said planar stop and said planar control surface operate to control said degree of movement of said blade towards said cutting block.
19. The insulation cutoff apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising:  
a quick exhaust valve operatively connected to each of said pneumatically operated cylinders, said quick exhaust valves automatically actuating during said rectilinear movement of said blade member.
20. A method for cutting insulation, said method comprising the steps of:  
operatively connecting an actuator to a blade for selectively moving said blade in a rectilinear direction;  
disposing a cutting block adjacent said blade, said cutting block being positioned off-center with respect to a plane defined by said blade's rectilinear movement;  
positioning a depth control mechanism for selectively controlling a degree of movement of said blade toward said cutting block; and  
wherein operation of said actuator selectively causes said blade to move in said rectilinear direction thereby impacting said cutting block to an extent in accordance with said depth control mechanism.